



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact: Michelle Robinson, Communications Director

TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520

FAX: (406)444-1394

e-mail: mirobinson@mt.gov

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P.O. BOX 1728

HELENA, MT

59624-1728

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jobs for Montana's Graduates 17th Annual Career Development Conference

(Billings) --- Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) and the student driven Montana Career Association welcomed nearly 260 high school students from 39 Montana public schools, including eight reservation high schools, eight alternative high schools, and the National Guard Youth Challenge program to the ***17th Annual JMG Career Development Conference and Awards Ceremony*** May 1 and 2 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

More than 40 non-profit, private and public employers staged vendor booths, hosted career cluster workshops, judged competitive events and interacted with students for the two day event.

At the conclusion of day two's competitive events, all parties assembled for the awards ceremony. JMG State Program Director Drea Brown began by acknowledging the people that are the inspiration of the program --- the Career Specialists:

- Joe Barbero, Billings Career Center
- Vicki Kaufman – Bridger
- Erin Romo – Brockton
- Amy Stops – Butte High and Webster Garfield
- Ty Cotton- Cascade
- Barry Bighorn – Culbertson
- Sharon Lindquist – Dawson County
- Kate Combs – Fromberg
- John Schmidt – Geyser
- Jill Page – Glasgow
- Ron Estes – Granite, Philipsburg
- Hope Speakthunder – Harlem
- Dan Wooley – Helena Capital
- Lisa Parker – Helena High
- Marie Rauch – Helena PAL
- Sandy Woldstad – Judith Gap
- Peggy Fredericks – Lame Deer
- Dean Herrid – Libby Central
- Darlene Kolzack – Malta
- Marjorie Chinadle – North Star, Rudyard
- Annawyn Griffin – Plains

- Jacquie Ainsworth – Powell County, Deer Lodge
- Connie Wittak – Scobey
- Irene Strauss – Whitehall

Individual Career Specialists nominated students who have demonstrated exceptional social and civic engagement, maintained commendable academic progress, and have become outstanding examples within his/her chapter, school and community with the Chairman's Recognition Award. Recipients are:

- Rico Rinaldi – Butte High
- Mike Gronneberg – Helena PAL
- Katie Nettleton – Helena Capital
- Syann Frank – Dawson County, Glendive
- Tim Stewart – Helena High
- Sonja Roche – Glasgow
- Jay Doris – Whitehall
- Jennifer Harmala – Billings Career Center
- Alissa Deville – Bridger High
- Glen Howendobler – Cascade High
- Shawn Bright – Plains High
- Miranda Wahl – Central Pride, Libby
- Roxanne O'Neal – Powell County
- David Hadford – North Star High, Rudyard

Student Assistance Foundation Community Outreach Manager Marti Johnson presented five \$500 and five \$250 scholarships for continuing education to the following seniors:

Scholarships of \$500

- Meagan McDonald – Plains High
- Jeremy Schleining – Judith Gap High
- McKenzie Farrell – Helena High
- Danielel Stevenson – Dutton/ Brady High
- Nathan Holland – Plains High

Scholarships of \$250

- Andrew Bishop – Dutton/Brady High
- Aston Gondeiro – Dutton/Brady High
- Britney Youpee – Brockton High
- Eron Krpan - Helena High
- Mary Lou Jefferson – Lame Deer High

Emcees Luke Stubblefield of Helena High and Valerie Singer of Dawson County High of Glendive presented awards for the competitive events categories of:

Grade 12 Life Skills Math

- 1st Brenda Jares - Bridger
- 2nd Austin Linder – Scobey
- 3rd Jacob Noland – Geyser

Grade 10/11 Life Skills Math

- 1st Kenny Bryan – Glasgow and Dylan Rapley – Capital (tie)

- 2nd Martin Madariaga – Harlem
- 3rd Zach Dighans – Scobey and Carla Scott – Brockton (tie)

Grade 12 Critical Thinking

- 1st Tyler McNeil – Plains
- 2nd Seth Smith – Helena PAL
- 3rd Jake Hibbard – Whitehall

Grade 12 Public Speaking

- 1st Frank Half Red – Culbertson
- 2nd Tyler McNeil – Plains
- 3rd Jake Hibbard – Whitehall

Grade 10/11 Public Speaking

- 1st Finale Ayers- Helena PAL
- 2nd Kathryn Barsotti – Granite, Philipsburg
- 3rd Carla Scott – Brockton

Grade 12 Poster Slogan

- 1st Ashley Bennett – Bridger
- 2nd Summer Beauchman – Brockton
- 3rd Samantha Kujala – Plains

Grade 11 Poster Slogan

- 1st Cody Hultbert – Judith Gap
- 2nd Danielle Anderson – Dawson County, Glendive
- 3rd Kayla Cruise – Helena Capital

Grade 10 Poster Slogan

- 1st Bethany Galloway – Helena High
- 2nd Calvin Kemmis – Glasgow
- 3rd Mariah Doom – Helena PAL

Grade 12 Employment Preparation

- 1st Russell Clark Sowers – Helena PAL
- 2nd LaTayla Larsen – Glasgow
- 3rd Ryan Peterson – Plains

Individual Civic Activities (greatest number of volunteer hours for their community/school)

- 1st Stephanie Meyers – Plains
- 2nd Tyson Philer – Havre SUNS
- 3rd Nicole Prather – Butte

Grade 12 Telephone Techniques

- 1st Star Carrywater – Harlem
- 2nd Logan Faure – Helena PAL
- 3rd Letecia Ogeda – Helena High

Grade 10/11 Telephone Techniques

- 1st Kathryn Barsotti – Granite High, Philipsburg
- 2nd Cordareo Calmpitt - Billings Career Center
- 3rd Deb Renenger – Helena High

Grade 12 Words in the Workplace

- 1st Jacki Weikart – Helena Capital
- 2nd Meggie McDonald - Plains
- 3rd Zach Brewington – Judith Gap

Grade 11 Words in the Workplace

- 1st Mike Gronneberg – Helena PAL
- 2nd Shannon McDevitt – Billings Career Center
- 3rd Josh Layne – Whitehall

Grade 12 Career Exploratory Notebook

- 1st Jacob Gilman – Powell County, Deer Lodge
- 2nd Ach Coulombe – Butte
- 3rd Meggie McDonald – Plains

Grade 11 Career Exploratory Notebook

- 1st Ashlee Steed – Helena PAL
- 2nd Caitlin Goetz – Bridger
- 3rd Don Bromley – Powell County, Deer Lodge

Grade 10 Career Exploratory Notebook

- 1st Hollie Hubbard – Glasgow
- 2nd Wade Farrow – Powell County, Deer Lodge

Grade 11 Decision Making

- 1st Ali Crawford – Billings Career Center
- 2nd Chelsea Smith – Helena PAL
- 3rd Josh Lybeck – North Star, Rudyard

Grade 10 Decision Making

- 1st Coral Behee - Central, Libby
- 2nd Taylor Brewington – Judith Gap
- 3rd Nicole Mech – Helena PAL

Electronic Presentation

- 1st Nate Holland – Plains
- 2nd Joey Rucker – Central High, Libby
- 3rd Erin Fosland – Scobey

Web Page Design

- 1st Powell High
- 2nd Helena High
- 3rd Plains High

Chapter Banners

- 1st North Star High, Rudyard

- 2nd Dawson County High
- 3rd Helena PAL

Chapter Civic Activities

- 1st Plains High
- 2nd Helena High
- 3rd Butte High

Chapter Manual

- 1st Helena PAL
- 2nd Bridger High
- 3rd Brockton High

Group Talent

- 1st Plains High
- 2nd Helena PAL

Individual Talent

- 1st Daniel Short – Harlem High
- Jake Houtari – Helena High
- Chris Ebey – Malta High

JMG began in 1990 as a solution to the dropout rates experienced in Montana's high schools. Today JMG supports a network of 41 programs serving nearly 800 students who are facing multiple barriers to graduation. Potential for career development is focused by staying in school and finding a career path suited to each individual's interests and abilities.

To learn more about the Jobs for Montana's Graduates program visit
<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/jmg/jmg.asp>

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Photographs are available upon request.